



Biosecurity Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of Exotic Newcastle Disease - Information for Bird Owners

Exotic Newcastle Disease is caused by a virus that is easily spread by movement of birds, people, and contaminated materials. The virus is present in manure and other excretions from infected birds. It easily contaminates hands, clothing, shoes, cages, and equipment. "Biosecurity measures" are steps taken to reduce the chances of spreading disease.

Basic Steps

- ✓ Avoid contact with birds. Infected birds may not look sick!
- ✓ Do not share birds, equipment, or feed with other bird owners.
- ✓ Keep your birds confined and separated from free-roaming chickens.
- ✓ Thoroughly clean and disinfect any item that may have been contaminated before taking it onto your bird premises.
- ✓ Take precautions when entering your property after visiting places where disease may exist (such as bird swap meets, flea markets, bird marts, bird shows, aviaries, feed stores, pet shops, neighbors, etc.)
 - Wash your hands with soap and water for 10-20 seconds. ([Link to Hand Washing](#)).
 - Thoroughly clean and disinfect your footwear, especially the soles.
 - Shower, blow your nose, clean your ears, put on clean clothes and launder those you were wearing as soon as possible.
- ✓ Minimize the number of visitors and keep them away from your birds. If visitors have had any recent contact with birds, or have birds of their own, they should follow the above precautions or not go near your birds.
- ✓ Control rodents.

Additional Precautions

- ✓ Place disinfectant footbaths at the entrances to your property and at the entrance to buildings containing birds.
- ✓ Dedicate a set (or sets) of easily cleaned footwear and clothing for bird activities. Use the dedicated footwear and clothes when entering the premises (or when leaving on bird activities). Do not allow "off-site" clothes to contaminate your premises.
- ✓ Provide boots and coveralls for visitors.
- ✓ If using a vehicle for bird activities, consider using plastic to cover its floorboards/seats and removing or disinfecting it after use.

Disinfectants and Footbaths

- ✓ Prepare disinfectants regularly and change them when they are dirty. ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)).
- ✓ Thoroughly clean objects before applying disinfectants.
- ✓ Apply disinfectants using brushes, sponges, spray units or [footbaths](#). Allow adequate contact time (according to manufacturer).
- ✓ Use disinfectants effective against Newcastle Disease virus. Follow the manufacturers' directions and take all precautions. Examples of disinfectant include:
 - Virkon S® mixed at 1.3 oz. powder per gallon of water.
 - Nolvasan® (chlorhexidine diacetate 2%) mixed at 3 fluid oz. per gallon of water.
 - Household bleach (sodium hypochlorite 6%) mixed at ¾ cup per gallon of water.
- ✓ Dispose of soiled disinfectant responsibly.

Disclaimer: Trade names used in this publication do not constitute a guarantee, warranty or endorsement by the Department of the products. The Department bears no responsibility for liability resulting from the use of the described products. These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent this highly contagious virus from affecting your birds. However, they will reduce the risks.